



**Newport-Mesa**  
Unified School District

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
Dana Black • Walt Davenport • Martha Fluor  
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Vicki Snell • Karen Yelsey

April 25, 2018

Via electronic mail

Mr. Tom Hatch, City Manager  
City of Costa Mesa  
77 Fair Drive  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626  
[tom.hatch@costamesaca.gov](mailto:tom.hatch@costamesaca.gov)

Re: Concern about Mobile Needle Exchange Program in Costa Mesa

Dear Mr. Hatch,

I first want to thank you for the great partnership that our school district has with the City of Costa Mesa, which is why I am comfortable and confident in bringing this safety concern to your attention.

Through an [Orange County Register news story](#) on April 25, our district became aware about the Orange County Needle Exchange Program applying to the California Department of Public Health to run a mobile needle exchange in Costa Mesa.

According to the news article the mobile needle exchange will be located near Monrovia Avenue and 18<sup>th</sup> Street, and be open from 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Newport-Mesa Unified School District has an elementary school located just north of this area, on 18<sup>th</sup> Street and Whittier Avenue. We have extremely high concerns about the proximity of this operation near any of our schools, and especially during school hours.

The news article states that "If the state approves the Orange County Needle Exchange Program's mobile service proposal, organizers would still have to get local permits and follow city business and zoning rules..." We strongly urge the City of Costa Mesa to deny any permits that place the safety of our students' at risk.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at 714-904-1253 or [vsnell@nmusd.us](mailto:vsnell@nmusd.us)

Sincerely,

Vicki Snell  
President, NMUSD Board of Education

cc: California Dept. of Public Health / [SEPAApplication@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:SEPAApplication@cdph.ca.gov) - Public Comments  
Submission Regarding Orange County Needle Exchange Placement in Costa Mesa

Mr. Tony Dodero, Public Information Officer, City of Costa Mesa